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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,177	04/13/2004	Oleg S. Fishman	1946-009US	3715
31855	7590	01/05/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIP O. POST INDEL, INC. PO BOX 157 RANCOCAS, NJ 08073			HOANG, TU BA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

QW

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/823,177	FISHMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tu Ba Hoang	3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 and 3 recite the limitation "the crucible" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Additionally, in claim 1, the phrase "an at least a portion" (at line 5) is confused. It should be changed to "at least a portion" (also note in claim 5, at line 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by McKibben (US 1,971,195). McKibben shows a vacuum chamber or casing 15 (Figure 1, i.e., a vacuum type coreless induction furnace, page 1, column 2, lines 1-2) in which an induction furnace is disposed to inductively heat or melt an electrical conductive material 14 (i.e., metal, page 1, column 2, line 6) placed within a crucible 10 by generating a magnetic field around an ac current carrying induction coil 11 disposed around the exterior of the crucible 10 and inside the vacuum chamber or casing 15 (page 1, column 2, lines 10-15), wherein at least a portion of the wall of the vacuum chamber or casing 15 penetrated by the magnetic field during operation of the induction furnace comprises a layer or surface of copper composition (i.e., copper, non-magnetic metal, page 1, column 2, line 22) and a layer with thickness providing means of structural support for the wall (page 2, column 1, lines 22-33, i.e., the thickness is great enough to provide sufficient strength to withstand the air pressure), and the thickness of the inner layer or wall of the casing 15 is at least equal to one standard depth of penetration of eddy current induced from the penetration of the magnetic field (page 1, column 2, lines 51-53 and page 2, column 1, lines 6-8, i.e., minimum thickness of the wall is determined with reference to the depth of magnetic penetration).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKibben in view of W. O. Krebs (US 1,940,256). McKibben discloses substantially all of the claimed features as set forth above except for the use of a susceptor disposed to heat a material placed within the susceptor by the generating a magnetic field around an ac current carrying induction coil to inductively heat the susceptor. It is noted that depend upon the type of material to be heated, either ferrous or non-ferrous metals, the use of a crucible or vessel including a susceptor or metal jacket in vacuum induction heating is well known, as evidence, W.O. Krebs shows the use of a melting pot or crucible 5 including a susceptor or metal jacket 7 used in combination with a refractory lining 5' and filling material 5". It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize in McKinnen the melting pot having such susceptor or metal jacket taught by W.O. Krebs in order to heat the melting pot by induce eddy current of the magnetic field generated by the coil into the metal jacket thereby heat the material (in the case of non-ferrous metals) or to heat the material by direct induction heating (in the case of ferrous metal or irons or conductive meaterials in general) by induce eddy current directly into the material to be heated.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Nikolov et al (US 4,227,03), Bruckmann et al (US 4,773,079), Heine et al (US 5,425,048), Peysakhovich et al (US 5,901,170), and Abiko et al (US 6,049,559).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tu Ba Hoang whose telephone number is (571) 272-4780. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-fri from 8:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robin Evans can be reached on (571) 272-4777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tu Ba Hoang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742

January 03, 2005